

WYCOMBE W. DROP LEAGUE POINT

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE Wanderers dropped an Isthmian League point this afternoon by drawing 0—0 at Leytonstone.

International Len Worley, the right winger Wycombe surprisingly dropped, played after all. He was hurriedly recalled into a Wycombe side anxious to halt its league decline, when Free was declared unfit just before the kick-off.

Leytonstone: Griffin, Allen, Wood, Smith, Flavell, Messer, Gray, Morris, Tiffin, Rutter, Cudmore.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown, Beck, Moring, Thomas, Bartholomew, Truett, Worley, Trott, Bates, Fryer, Atkins.

Referee: B R Copp.

Wycombe had a scare in the first Leytonstone attack. Rutter deflected a centre from Gray and goalkeeper Brown saved at the second attempt.

Cutting out the frills, Leytonstone were the most effective side on a concrete-hard surface, their hustling style contrasting sharply with Wycombe's more delicate and deliberate moves.

As Wanderers improved, Fryer sliced his shot wide of the post and Trott, put through by a Bates header, walked the ball into the net as the whistle went for offside.

MISTIMED LOBS

Far from happy with the bouncing ball, Brown badly mistimed two lobbs, and each time Wycombe were lucky to scramble the ball away.

But Wanderers had the simplest chance of all—and they fluffed it. Atkins put Bates through splendidly, but the centre-forward tapped the ball tamely at the goalkeeper with no one else to beat.

Bates nearly had his revenge when he all but fastened on to a panic back-pass, goalkeeper Griffin having to intercept smartly.

Unsettled by Leytonstone's first-time tactics, Wanderers never gained the initiative. Inside right Fryer was playing a deep, almost defensive game, and wing men Worley and Atkins were seldom in the picture.

Half-time: Leytonstone 0, Wycombe 0.

Trott sparked off a series of livelier Wycombe moves. He tested Griffin with one long-range drive and then flicked the ball into the net for an off-side goal.

Leytonstone fought back and were soon worrying Wycombe with fast and robust raids. Wycombe's new pivot, Bartholomew, was tackling steadily and gave little away while young Thomas made some timely clearances.

HARD MATCH

This was a hard, slogging match with few exciting moments. The Wycombe attack was still ineffective and Bates and Atkins switched positions.

The home forwards were threatening with speedy attacks and Brown did well to smother a hot shot from winger Gray.

It was soon Brown versus Gray again and a flying save by the goalkeeper saved Wycombe.

Shuffling their forwards desperately, Wanderers tried hard to score the vital winning goal which would keep their championship chances alive, but to no avail.

RESULT:

LEYTONSTONE 0
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 0

ESCAPE FOR WYCOMBE

Leytonstone 0 Wycombe W. 0

THE only time the ball entered the net in this dull Isthmian League match at Leytonstone was when Wanderers inside right Trott hit it in early in the second half. He was offside.

The defences completely dominated uninspired forwards playing at "bootball." Five times the ball was kicked right out of the ground.

Leytonstone looked most likely to score and nearly did in the first minute when Rutter's header was smothered on the line.

The home side's most dangerous forward was right-winger Grey who tested Brown with three good shots. But the nearest Leytonstone came was in the last minute when Cudmore strode in and cracked the ball against a defender's legs. From the rebound he hit a shot inches over the bar.

In the second half a desperate Wycombe shifted centre-forward Bates to the left wing and moved Atkins into the middle. But it made little difference. Trott was Wanderers' most lively forward and Griffin had to stretch to palm one of his second-half drives over the bar.

In defence, Wycombe centre half Bartholomew kept the roving Tiffin on a tight rein. This took much of the sting out of the home forwards.